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**Sent:** 12/7/2018 9:59:43 PM  
**To:** Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

Andrew,

For Doug's review, this is due to Carolyn by noon MST on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Background —**

**Silver Bow Creek Butte/Area Superfund site:** In 1982, EPA proposed the Silver Bow Creek site to be added to the National Priority List and it was listed as a Superfund Site in 1983. The Butte Area was added to Silver Bow Creek site in 1987. The Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area site is in Butte, Montana and includes 26 miles of stream and streamside habitat. Since the late 1800s, mining wastes have been dumped into streams and wetlands near mining operations. These activities contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with heavy metals. From 1988 to 2005, EPA completed several removal actions to clean up areas around former smelter sites, mine waste dumps, railroad beds, stream banks and channels, and residential yards to address immediate human health and environmental risks. EPA continues to work with the community, project stakeholders, and responsible parties to oversee the ongoing cleanup work.

**Anaconda Smelter Superfund site:** The 300-square-mile Anaconda Co. Smelter site is located at the southern end of the Deer Lodge Valley in Montana, at and near the location of the former Anaconda Copper Mining Company ore processing facilities. Operations at the Anaconda Smelter ceased in 1980 and the smelter facilities were dismantled soon thereafter. Over a century of milling and smelting operations, high concentrations of arsenic, lead, copper, cadmium, and zinc were produced. These wastes contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with hazardous chemicals. In September 1983, EPA placed the Anaconda Co. Smelter site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List to address the contamination. EPA is the lead agency with Atlantic Richfield Co. conducting site activities through administrative orders. Cleanup is complete at several areas within the site. At these areas, operation and maintenance activities are ongoing. Cleanup is underway at the remaining areas. Remedies that have been completed are currently protective of human health and the environment. Where remedies are not complete, access is controlled to prevent human exposure to waste.

### **Key Points —**

- Senator Daines sent a letter to then Administrator Pruitt in December 2017 urging him to include Butte and Anaconda on the Superfund priority list.
- Senator Tester sent a letter to Acting Administrator Wheeler in October 2018 requesting EPA's continued collaboration and work with ATSDR at the Butte and Anaconda Superfund sites. Region 8 responded to both of those inquiries.
- Senator Daines visited the Anaconda and Butte sites with Acting Administrator Wheeler on September 7, 2018.

### **Talking Points —**

- EPA recognizes the importance to the communities of Anaconda and Butte, Montana, of getting consent decrees finalized in 2019 in order to complete remedy construction by 2024 (for Butte) and 2025 (for Anaconda) and begin the process of getting the sites deleted from the National Priorities List.

- EPA appreciates the efforts and involvement from elected representatives and the local communities to provide input into the process to help ensure that final remedies for Anaconda and Butte are protective and meet the interests of the local communities to the greatest extent possible.
- In the interest of risk evaluation and effective risk communication, EPA is actively engaged in public health studies in both communities along with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Butte-Silver Bow City-County Health Department, Anaconda Deer Lodge County Health Department, local health professionals, and community members.
- In Butte, EPA is working with Montana Resources and the Atlantic Richfield Company to implement a pilot project to begin pumping and treating water from the Berkeley Pit with discharge of treated water to Silver Bow Creek.
- EPA tested Anaconda schools for lead and arsenic to ensure that students and teachers are not exposed to contamination from historic smelter operation.
- ATSDR collected blood and urine samples from over 300 Anaconda community members, with analysis paid for by EPA, to conduct an exposure investigation and provide results to the community in 2019.
- EPA collected and is studying vegetables grown in Anaconda to ensure that residents growing their own food are not exposed to contaminants from historic mining.

Best,

Jody

**Jody Ostendorf**

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